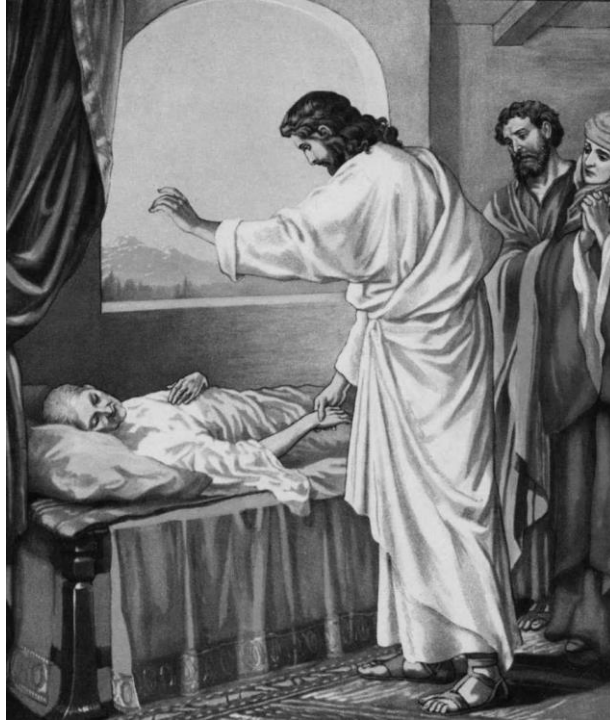


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

February 4th, 2018

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

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Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Sam Leister
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Marina Holderman
Braedon Walton & Jade Britcher
Diana Wise

Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Acolytes
Altar Guild

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 4, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to “Prayers of Intercession.”

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sam Leister

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **“Peace be with you.”**

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #543 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (spoken responsively)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung to the tune of “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”)

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C **Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 40:21-31

THE LESSON READS:

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my

right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (**responsively**)

L - The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love.^{20c}
Hallelujah!

ALL - The LORD heals the brokenhearted.

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE (sung to the tune of "Rise, O Children of Salvation")

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

* GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

* HYMN OF THE DAY “In Christ There Is No East or West” #359 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES’ CREED (all)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

P For the church, its pastors, deacons, musicians, artists, teachers, seminarians, and all proclaimers of the gospel, that your gift of steadfast love and mercy will spread throughout the world, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the earth and all living creatures, for those preparing fields for planting, and for favorable weather, that all of us who care for this life will find voice to help creation thrive, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For all rulers of the earth in local, regional, national, and international offices, and those without the power of official office, that they will be given the courage to work for the protection of all people and act as servants of all, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For all who suffer this day: the sick and wounded, the grieving and brokenhearted, the hungry and exploited, those with malaria, and all who need our prayers (especially all of our shut-ins: Kitty Walters, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, Betty Karstetter, Jim Yetter, and Don Lewis). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Avonel & Rick Waller, Sr., Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Randy Clark, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Tom Lyter, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Dr. Laurie Cox, Bob Bell, Megan Hart, Austin Parker, Terry Coder, John Towsey, Barbara Wengerd, Audrey Peters, Rich Walters, Jim Gilson, Jane Cleck, Cynthia Taylor, Glenn Compton, Sieber Stoner, Mary Sanders, Jane Ann Baney, Leon Kramer, and Eddi Kay Gill, that they will be consoled and healed by health care workers, counselors, family, and friends, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For those who gather in fellowship and festivities, for the ministries of this

congregation in our community and throughout the world, that in all our service we see ourselves centered around Christ, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Lord of the Church, we give thanks to you for your death and resurrection, and that you are the Good Shepherd. Hear our prayers for our Call Committee and its work of discernment, and hear our prayer for your sending to us a pastor who will be a strong partner with us in the joy and service of your Gospel for those within your Church and those beyond our walls in this community, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith and now sing praises around the throne of God, and that we be assured of the promise of everlasting life, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

ANTHEM:

Junior Choir

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. [**Amen.**] Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. [**Amen.**] Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [**Amen.**]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel).

DISTRIBUTION:

[“INTINCTION” – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

C Amen.

*** THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord’s Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SENDING

*** BLESSING**

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)

*** CLOSING HYMN** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #439 Green Hymnal

*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

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NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Stephen Rodgers

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Bob St. Clair

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise (cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Haley Mummah & Hope Miller

WELCOME

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads but also in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Miller by family.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Sam Leister, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church's pilgrimage, the church's inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop's responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

JUST A THOUGHT – Jeremy Taylor, Anglican Cleric (1613 – 1667): If we refuse (to give) mercy here, we shall have justice in eternity.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or messiahlutheran@pa.net. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email messiahlutheran@pa.net for any changes or requests.

REQUEST from the Board of Worship & Music: In light of our congregation’s recent acceptance of Messiah’s Mission Statement (including “....making disciples of Christ through Fellowship....”), we invite more of the congregation to sit in the main sanctuary during the worship service. Unifying everyone into one space will help make us more welcoming to all members and visitors as well as creating a sense of community, sharing and togetherness. Worship Leaders will be able to better “connect” and “communicate” to all worshipers (and you to them) during the service. Other benefits include better sound while singing hymns, listening to the sermons/anthems/special music and an easier time of “Sharing the Peace.” Thanks for making this positive transition to your worship experience!

FAMILY NIGHT WITH THE HERSHEY BEARS – The Hershey Bears are hosting Faith and Family Night on March 25th at 5:00 p.m. against the Hartford Wolf Pack. We will be purchasing a group of 200 level seats. The cost is as follows: Adults - \$15.00, Youth - \$5.00, Snack Voucher - \$5.25 (choice of soft pretzel or box of popcorn with a drink), Meal Voucher - \$10.00 (choice of hamburger, hot dog, sausage, pizza, sub, salad, and a 32 oz. Souvenir Cup of soda). Popcorn or soft pretzel is included with some options. We will need your payment prior to sending in the ticket order for our group, and we will most likely send in the order by mid-February. Please specify the number of adults and youth attending as well as any snack or meal vouchers which you would like to purchase.

THE FEBRUARY 2018 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office (messiahlutheran@pa.net) and Bob St. Clair (stclairb@embarqmail.com) prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at www.mlcmiffintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

THE DEADLINE for all items to be included in the Sunday bulletin is **Thursday noon**.

THE 2018 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. You may register online at www.campmountluther.org. Please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1st to avoid a late fee.

HOME COMMUNION NEEDS HELP – The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for at least two people who would like to give communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins will be used on a quarterly basis. Training is available. Complete Home Communion kits are also available, including all liturgy needed. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey at 717-436-6433 or geedey@centurylink.net.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 717-436-6213 or Sam Leister at 717-436-8589. A date and time will be set based on those who wish to attend.

A BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held for those who are interested. If you wish to have your child baptized, or be baptized yourself, or you wish to attend the New Member Class, please contact the church office or Sam Leister.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2018 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2017 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church today. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God’s love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “help our neighbors” by dropping a dollar in the soup pot and also by donating a can of soup. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to press quilt tops for “The Needlers.” Tops can be taken home and pressed and brought back to the church. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of “The Needlers.”

COPIES OF DECEMBER 2, 2018 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH’S DOORS will be unlocked at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 21, 2018

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 57		Benevolence –	\$ 55.00
Sunday School – 25		Building Fund –	\$ 180.00
		Sunday School –	\$ 50.80
Total Offering	\$2,886.30	Memorial Fund -	\$ 75.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 360.80</u>	Total	\$ 360.80
General Fund	\$2,525.50		

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2018 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1st Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Sam Leister or the church office.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael “Doc” Johnston at 436-9209.

WEEKLY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

THANK YOU for the beautiful altar flowers I received from Messiah. They were greatly appreciated.

--Mona Lawson

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Ann Beaver will present the program. All women are invited to attend.

WELCA WILL BE COLLECTING items for Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed are: 2 light-weight cotton T-shirts (NO ONESIES), 2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (WITHOUT FEET), 2 receiving blankets (medium-weight cotton or flannel, crocheted, or knitted with light-weight yarn up to 52 inches square), 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap, 2 pairs of socks, 1 hand towel (dark color), 2 diaper pins or large safety pins. Sizes are to be from 6 months to 24 months.

WELCA will be starting a fund to raise \$1000.00 toward a pair of oxen and a plow through ELCA Good Gifts. Watch bulletins for more details.

COMMUNITY

2018 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Ash Wednesday Service.....February 14th, 7:00 p.m. at Messiah
Worship leader, Rev. Chris Mathiason
- Maundy Thursday Service.....March 29th, 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church
Worship leader, Rev. Nancy McClure
- Good Friday Service.....March 30th, 12:00 noon at Aldersgate Methodist Church
Worship leader, Rev. Dan Kerlin

The community is also invited to worship each Wednesday of Lent (February 21—March 21) at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.

2018 COMMUNITY WOMEN’S LENTEN TEAS

All teas will begin with Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.
The study is on the book “Embracing the Uncertain” by Magrey R. DeVega

- Wednesday, February 14.....Messiah Lutheran Church
- Wednesday, February 21.....Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Wednesday, February 28.....Trinity Methodist Church
- Wednesday, March 7.....St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church
- Wednesday, March 14.....Aldersgate Methodist Church
- Wednesday, March 21.....St. Jude’s Catholic Church

PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY LENTEN TEAS will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church each Tuesday beginning February 20th during Lent. This year’s theme is “The Psalms Were Made For Lent.” Please join us for inspiration and fellowship.

2018 PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS

All Prayer Breakfasts will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the Port Royal Community Building.

Saturday, February 17.....Rev. Jeremy Kerstetter, Central Baptist Church
Saturday, February 24.....Rev. Gary Krabill, Chaplin at Locust Grove
Saturday, March 3.....Rodney Pry, Pine Grove Methodist Church
Saturday, March 10.....Dr. John Gehman, MD
Saturday, March 17.....Zachary Bashore, Christian Retreat Center
Saturday, March 24.....Rev. Terry Smith, Free Spring Church of the Brethren

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU
MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT,
LAUNDRY DETERGENT, AND DIAPERS (SIZE 5 & 6)
DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion. (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).

Monday: -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room.
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room.

Thursday: -7:00 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.

Sunday: -Transfiguration of Our Lord.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Lay Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers).